

time and in the manner permitted by the Board.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Amy Levine, SERDP Program Office, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 303, Arlington, VA or by telephone at (703) 696-2124.

Dated: December 15, 1997.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement for the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative in Texas and New Mexico

The United States Air Force (USAF) is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of a proposal to implement the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI). This proposal is intended to provide efficient, integrated training opportunities for aircrews flying B-1B aircraft from Dyess Air Force Base (AFB), Texas, and B-52H aircraft from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. The proposed action for RBTI would involve several interrelated elements:

1. Modifications and additions to existing military training route (MTR) airspace used generally for low-altitude training activities;
2. Modifications and additions to existing military operations area (MOA) airspace used for medium to high altitude training and maneuvering;
3. Increased flights by B-1B and B-52H aircraft in the MTR and MOA airspace;
4. Acquisition of a total of 12, 15-acre parcels under the MTR and MOA airspace for construction and operation of an Electronic Scoring Site system consisting of electronic emitters and associated facilities; and
5. Closure of existing Electronic Scoring Site systems at Harrison, Arkansas and La Junta, Colorado, and transfer of equipment to the proposed Electronic Scoring Site system developed for RBTI.

The Air Force has developed three alternatives, each of which fulfills the requirements of the proposed action. Two of these alternatives use airspace over lands located in west Texas; the third uses airspace in northeastern New Mexico. All three of these alternatives,

and the No-Action alternative will be evaluated in the EIS. If feasible alternatives are developed as part of the scoping process, they will be included in the EIS.

Implementation of any of the three alternatives fulfilling the proposed action would require the Federal Aviation Administration to modify existing special use airspace and to chart new airspace. Similarly, the Air Force would undertake real estate actions to acquire access to the 12, 15-acre sites for the electronic scoring system.

The information in this EIS will be considered in making the decision whether to implement RBTI, and if so, to select an alternative for implementation. A separate EIS is currently being conducted by the Air Force to address use of existing military airspace over west Texas and northeastern New Mexico by units stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. This proposal, as well as other actions, will be assessed for potential cumulative impacts in the RBTI EIS.

The Air Force intends to hold several public scoping meetings in the potentially affected areas of Texas and New Mexico. Dates, times, and locations for these meetings will be announced through press releases, newspapers and other media sources accessible to the public and agencies. These meetings are the first step in asking for public and government agency comments on the RBTI proposal. Comments provided at these meetings and throughout the scoping process should focus on the merits of the proposal, alternatives, and the nature and scope of environmental issues and other concerns that need to be addressed in the EIS. During the meetings, the Air Force will describe the proposed action and all alternatives, the National Environmental Policy Act process, and outline the opportunities for public involvement in the process.

Comments will be accepted throughout the analysis process, however, to ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the preparation of the Draft EIS, comments should be submitted to the address below by February 17, 1998.

RBTI EIS, c/o 7 CES/CEV, 710 3rd Street, Dyess AFB, TX 79607.

Barbara A. Carmichael

Alternate Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Disposal and Reuse of Fort McClellan, Alabama

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the President's Council on Environmental Quality, the Army has prepared a DEIS for the Disposal and Reuse of Fort McClellan (FMC), Alabama. The approved 1995 base closure and realignment actions required by the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-510), and subsequent actions in compliance with this law, mandated the closure of FMC. It is Department of Defense (DoD) policy to dispose of property no longer needed by DoD. Consequently, as a result of the mandated closure of FMC, the Army is disposing of excess property at FMC.

The DEIS analyzes three disposal alternatives: (1) The no action alternative, which entails maintaining the property in caretaker status after closure; (2) the encumbered disposal alternative, which entails transferring the property to future owners with Army-imposed limitations, or encumbrances, on the future use of the property; and (3) the unencumbered disposal alternative, which entails transferring the property to future owners with fewer or no Army-imposed restrictions on the future use of the property. The preferred action identified in this DEIS is encumbered disposal of excess property at FMC. Based upon the analysis contained in the DEIS, encumbrances and deed restrictions associated with the Army's disposal actions for FMC will be mitigation measures.

Planning for the reuse of the property to be disposed of is a secondary action resulting from closure. The local community has established the Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (FMRRA) to produce a reuse development plan for the surplus property. The impacts of reuse are evaluated in terms of land use intensities. This reuse analysis is based upon implementing one of three reuse alternatives, all of which are based upon the FMRRA draft reuse plan. The Army has not selected one of these three alternatives as the preferred action. Selection of the preferred reuse plan is a decision that will be made by the FMRRA.